

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2015 at 6 PM
Ella Risk Conference Room, Lower Level

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call- Chairperson Ana Cano Morales called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Present were Stephanie Gonzalez, Hugo Figueroa, Diosa Martinez, Sonia Grace, and Ron Pitt. Absent was Ana-Cecilia Rosado.
- II. Pledge- Ms. Cano Morales invited Dr. Ron Pitt to lead the Pledge.
- III. The Chair of the Trustee Board, Anna Cano Morales, took a moment to introduce and welcome new Trustee, Ron Pitt, to the Board of Trustees.
- IV. Approval of the meeting minutes of December 9, 2014 - A motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 9, 2014, was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. The vote was called. Motion carried. (5,0,1 abstaining due to brand new membership on the Board)
- V. Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescissions, resignations, recalls, and retirement-There were two items of business. Chairperson Morales requested a motion to approve the appointment of Julia Steiny as the Director of the Department of Justice grant recently received. A motion to approve the appointment was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Grace. Motion carried. (6,0) Chairperson Morales then reluctantly requested a motion to accept the retirement of Dr. Gallo effective June 30, 2015. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. During the discussion, Ms. Cano Morales read a letter written by Dr. Gallo from several years back. It was a heartfelt letter written to the entire Central Falls staff following the mournful loss of an endearing teacher. The sentiments expressed paid tribute to the teaching profession. Following the reading, the vote was called. Motion carried. (6,0)
- VI. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget – Ms. Grace noted for the record that she reviews the bills every two weeks prior to meetings. Ms. Cano Morales noted that Mr. Figueroa serves as an alternate reviewer in case Ms. Grace is unavailable for any reason. A motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. Motion carried. (6,0)
- VII. Public Comment – Mr. LaPlante stated his admiration for the work of Dr. Gallo and spoke eloquently of her leadership.

- VIII. Second reading of Student Activities Fund Policy and Procedures-Both Dr. Gallo and Ms. Baker reviewed the few changes to the proposed policy from the last meeting. A motion to approve the policy as it appeared in the second reading was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Martinez. Motion carried. (6,0)
- IX. First Reading of Independent Contractor/Employee Policy -Ms. Baker explained the need for the policy and the confusion that results when people prefer to be paid as consultants when indeed they are not. We reviewed the IRS rules and the proper route internally before anyone is placed in our payroll system.
- X. Ella Risk SRP Presentation – Michael Templeton, Principal of the Ella Risk Elementary School, informed the Trustees about the school’s commitment to equity. Mr. Templeton reviewed the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) model and explained how the school was using the SIOP as a framework for all classes and decisions in relation to the School Reform Plan. He noted for the record that the Ella Risk teachers had begun a voluntary book study in order to learn and focus on SIOP. Time was spent understanding the genesis of the School Reform Plan which occurred through surveys and use of Common Planning Time. The positive initiatives and the adoption of the “buzz of the ER Bee” were presented. The renewed commitment to the PTO made the Trustees happy as well. Questions arose from the Trustees about attendance rates. Ms. Gonzalez was especially interested in understanding both the student and teacher attendance rates of every school in the district.
- XI. Central Falls Schools Technology Update- Michael St. Jean noted that the goals of the Technology Plan have been achieved and reminded us all that the work of rolling out the Chromebooks would be all consuming for a while. The discussion centered on professional development needs while the emphasis and expectations of the use of the Chromebooks centers on the Google Classroom. Currently, only a few teachers have experimented or really committed to learning and using Google Classroom. This will grow through peer-to-peer sharing of experiences.
- XII. Second reading of the 1:1 Chromebook Policy and Procedures- A motion to adopt the Chromebook policy and procedures was made by Mr. Figueroa, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Motion carried. (6,0)
- XIII. Superintendent Comment – The Superintendent reviewed the city/school district collaboration efforts in the areas of human resources and technology seeking the Trustees’ continued public endorsement. The Trustees held a lively discussion with Mr. St. Jean who was forthright in

expressing his opinion that sharing his expertise with the city was a distraction to his work within the schools; yet, Mr. St. Jean stated emphatically that in the effort to build a uniquely whole community through such collaborations this service was the “right thing to do.” The Trustees fully endorsed this course of action and requested periodic updates.

The Superintendent then introduced the special education oversight/collaboration pilot contract between the CFSD and BVP once again seeking the Trustees’ public endorsement. Edda Carmadello shared in the table discussion about this cutting edge idea expressing her full support for exploring the possibilities. Together, Ms. Carmadello and Dr. Gallo spoke about contracted special education services during the after school hours that would provide an audit of BVP’s current levels of service, make recommendations, and map out next steps in assisting BVP to provide a full array of services and full compliance with special education laws and regulations.

Here, too, the Trustees were most supportive and enthusiastic reminding everyone that the children served must remain first and foremost in our minds. A motion to fully endorse this experiment was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. When a vote was called, Ms. Gonzalez asked if she must recuse herself because of her employment at BVP. Members of the Board and Dr. Gallo felt that since there was no benefit, financial or otherwise, to Ms. Gonzalez, there was no reason for recusal. The motion carried. (6,0)

The Superintendent reviewed the joyful activities of the Holiday Express which served thousands of meals and provided numerous garments, toys, and books to the Central Falls families. Dr. Gallo then explained the members of US Attorney’s Community Outreach program had decided to investigate adopting a CF school. After meeting several times with Dr. Gallo and with Calcutt administrators, the attorneys decided to serve the middle school by establishing programs and mentoring activities. Specific plans will unfold over the next few weeks.

The Trustees were disappointed to learn the intent to expand Health Clinic services has been placed on hold for now with the clinic staff simply unable to add to their already crowded schedules.

Dr. Gallo reminded the Trustees about the Youth Risk Behavior Survey for which CFS was once again randomly selected to participate.

Finally, Dr. Gallo noted with great pride that the high school Robotics Team under the direction of Allison Murray received numerous accolades during their first foray into competition. Dr. Gallo read the Motivate Award requisites straight from the competition documents proclaiming our Robotics Team the winners. These student model the hearts and spirit of true CF Warriors.

- XIV. Board Comment – Chairperson Cano Morales repeated her welcome and gratitude to Ron Pitt for his presence as a new Trustee. Ms. Cano Morales once again thanked Dr. Gallo for her service to the schools and community.
- XV. A motion to convene in executive session under R.I. General Laws 42-46-5(a)(2), to discuss certain matters that are the subject of *collective bargaining* and litigation, and to conduct work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining and litigation (negotiation) was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. A roll call vote was taken. All agreed.
- XVI. A motion to come out of executive session and seal the minutes was made by Ms. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. A roll call vote was taken. All agreed.
- XVII. Next Scheduled Meeting: January 27, 2015 at 6 PM at the Ell Risk School. Topic: Parent Involvement
- XVIII. Adjournment- A motion to adjourn was made at 9:00 PM by Ms. Martinez, seconded by Ms. Grace.